

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the~~ A method for producing an austenitic stainless steel thin strip casting through a continuous caster wherein mold walls move synchronously with the casting, comprising applying a pressing force P of the at least one mold wall face against the casting wherein the pressing force is more than about 1.1 and less than about 1.6 t/m.

3. (currently amended) A method for producing an austenitic stainless steel thin strip casting, through a continuous caster wherein mold walls move synchronously with the casting wherein the continuous caster is a twin-drum type continuous caster, and wherein the drum radius R (m) and the pressing force P (t/m) of at least one mold wall face satisfies the relation $0.8 \leq (\sqrt{R}) \times P \leq 2.0$.

4. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 3 wherein~~ A method for producing an austenitic stainless steel thin strip casting through a continuous caster wherein mold walls move synchronously with the casting, comprising applying a pressing force P of the at least one mold wall face against the casting is more than about 1.1 and less than about 1.6 t/m, and the drum radius R (m) and the pressing force P (t/m) of at least one mold wall face satisfies the relation $0.8 \leq (\sqrt{R}) \times P \leq 2.0$.

5-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 2 wherein a height of a molten steel pool formed between at least two mold walls is more than about 200 mm and less than about 450 mm.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 2 wherein a solidification time, defined by a span of time between a time when at least one moving mold wall contacts molten steel to a time when at least two solidified shells unite, is more than about 0.4 second and less than about 1.0 second.
11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 2 wherein in-line rolling is applied during the process from molding to coiling.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 2 wherein a degree of Ni inverse segregation, defined by the ratio of an amount of Ni at Ni inverse segregation portions to an average amount of Ni in an entire steel is in the range from about 0.90 to about 0.97.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein a height of a molten steel pool formed between at least two mold walls is more than about 200 mm and less than about 450 mm.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein a solidification time, defined by a span of time between a time when at least one moving mold wall contacts molten steel to a time when at least two solidified shells unite, is more than about 0.4 second and less than about 1.0 second.
15. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein in-line rolling is applied during the process from molding to coiling.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein a degree of Ni inverse segregation, defined by the ratio of an amount of Ni at Ni inverse segregation portions to an average amount of Ni in an entire steel is in the range from about 0.90 to about 0.97.